

April 24, 1961

Mr. Robert P. Clark
Nieman Foundation for Journalism
Harvard University
44 Holyoke House
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Clark:

Save for a deep interest in the health of mankind, I do not believe there was any "conflict of interest" in connection with the work of the 1959-1960 Committee of Consultants on Medical Research.

This committee asked for advice from many sources including some witnesses from the National Institutes of Health. I am sure that the chairman of the committee could furnish you with a list of the many witnesses who appeared before it.

It is my feeling that Congress' more generous support of medical research in recent years is due to their interest in the health of mankind and to the realization that adequate support has not been provided in the past. In case you have not seen it, I would suggest that you get a copy of the recent booklet put out by the National Health and Education Committee, Inc., 135 East 42nd Street, New York 17. It shows among other things that the Federal Government spends .7% on medical research compared with what is spent on everything else.

I do not agree with Mr. John Russell that researchers are under pressure to ask for and spend more than they need.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Blalock, M.D.